

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-13 are currently pending of which claims 1, 6, and 9 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, and 9-13 have been amended through this Reply. Upon careful review, one would conclude that no new matter has been added to the application via this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

DRAWINGS

Fig. 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error. More specifically, “Exract” has been replaced with “Extract”.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 5, 6, 8 and 13 are objected to for minor informalities.

With respect to claims 5, 6, and 13, the Examiner alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “said outputted secondary conversion data”. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s such allegation is totally erroneous.

In regard to claim 5, Applicant submits that there is sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “said outputted secondary conversion data” in the claim. Claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, “a secondary conversion data generation means for encrypting said primary conversion data to generate secondary conversion data, output means for outputting said secondary conversion data to other apparatus, and storage means for storing said outputted secondary conversion data . . .” (see lines 2-5 of claim 5). It is clear that the storage means stores the secondary conversion data that is outputted from the output means. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that there is sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “said outputted secondary conversion data” in the claim.

Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, “secondary conversion data generation means for encrypting said primary conversion data to generate secondary conversion data; output means for outputting said secondary conversion data to said information management apparatus through

said communication line; and storage means for storing, when said secondary conversion data are outputted from said output means, said outputted secondary conversion data . . .” (see page 45, line 16 – page 46, line 1).

Claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, “encrypting said primary conversion data by means of secondary conversion data generation means to generate secondary conversion data; outputting said secondary conversion data to other apparatus by output means; and causing storage means, when said secondary conversion data are outputted from said output means, to store said outputted secondary conversion data . . .” (see page 48, lines 16-20).

At least for the reasons stated with respect to claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that there is sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “said outputted secondary conversion data” in claims 6 and 13.

In regard to claim 8, the Examiner alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “same unique codes” in the claim. Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner, this claim has been amended to address this issue.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully requested to withdraw the objections to claims 5, 6, 8, and 13.

CLAIM REJECTION - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 9-13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has asserted that claim 9 lacks the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or manufacture within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner that claims 9-13 are non-statutory, claim 9 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, “A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon computer executable program for causing an information management computer for processing data containing personal data, the computer program when executed causes a processor to execute steps of: . . .” in order to expedite prosecution. At least in view of this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is statutory.

Claims 10-13 have been amended to replace “program” with “computer readable storage medium”. Thus, at least in view of this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-13 are statutory.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 9-13.

35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTION – Shiraishi

Claims 1, 2, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Shiraishi et al. (JP 2002-149497)[hereinafter “Shiraishi”]. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For a Section 102 rejection to be proper, the cited reference must teach or suggest each and every claimed element. *See M.P.E.P. 2131; M.P.E.P. 706.02*. Thus, if the cited reference fails to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

In this instance, Shiraishi fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed element. For example, independent claims 1 and 9 recites, *inter alia*, “. . . performing an operation using one-way function on the basis of personal data extracted by said personal data extraction means, to generate a unique code, wherein the unique code includes encoded privacy information data; and . . . replacing personal data of said processing-object data with said unique code, to generate primary conversion data, wherein said generated primary conversion data includes both the processing-object data and the unique code . . .” *Emphasis added*.

It is respectfully submitted that Shiraishi fails to teach or suggest the above-identified claim feature of independent features of claims 1 and 9.

Shiraishi recognizes a problem in the conventional system in which privacy information is enciphered and it is stored in memory storage for later retrieval by an authorized user. More specifically, Shiraishi acknowledges that when reading enciphered privacy information, the enciphered information must be decrypted and a user must be shown. Therefore, Shiraishi

discloses that since the decoding processing of information influenced the throughput fall of a system greatly, there was a problem that information could not be promptly provided to a user.

In order to address the above-mentioned problem associated with the conventional system, Shiraishi proposes a solution in which privacy information of a user is not encoded. Shiraishi discloses an input device 1 in which a user inputs self identification information (PID) and privacy information which is information to make secret from the input device 1. The input device 1 output PID to a hash processor 2, and outputs privacy information to a coupling device 3. (See paragraph [0010].)

Shiraishi further discloses that after the hash process of the PID inputted into the hash processor 2 is carried out, the hash-processed PID is outputted to the coupling device 3. The coupling device 3 combines the hash-processed PID and the privacy information inputted without passing through the hash processor 2 by which the hash process is carried out, and stores it in the memory storage 4 by making this information into connected information. Alternatively, the coupling device 3 matches mutually the PID enciphered by carrying out a hash process, and the privacy information which is not enciphered, and stores it in the memory storage 4. As a result, the hash information of the PID and the privacy information, which were matched mutually, are stored in the memory storage 4. (See paragraph [0011].) Next, a user inputs the PID used as the key of privacy information search to read the self privacy information stored in the memory storage 4, after operating the purport of data read from the input device 1. (See paragraph [0012].)

Shiraishi is distinguished from the claimed invention in that nowhere does Shiraishi teach or suggest a unique code generation means that performs an operation using one-way function on the basis of personal data extracted by a personal data extraction means, to generate a unique code, wherein the unique code includes encoded privacy information data. As demonstrated above, Shiraishi does not want to encrypt the privacy information. Further, Shiraishi is completely silent on generating a primary conversion data which includes both a processing-object data and the unique code that includes the encoded privacy information data. Although Shiraishi discloses that the PID may be encoded, this PID is merely used for entering the storage

4 for retrieving un-encoded privacy data. Nowhere does Shiraishi teach or suggest that this PID and privacy data are part of a single data (e.g., primary conversion data) as claimed.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 9 are distinguishable from Shiraishi. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and claim 10 depends from claim 9. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated with respect to claims 1 and 9, claims 2 and 10 are also distinguishable from Shiraishi.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9, and 10, based on Shiraishi, be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTION – Shiraishi

Claims 3-4 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shiraishi in view of Khello et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,423)[hereinafter "Khello"]. Claims 5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shiraishi in view of Yoshida et al. (JP 11-045304)[hereinafter "Yoshida"]. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kawagishi et al. (JP 2002-279062)[hereinafter "Kawagishi"] in view of Shiraishi and further in view of Yoshida. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1, directly or indirectly, and claims 11-13 depend from claim 9. As demonstrated above in great detail, Shiraishi fails to teach or suggest “. . . performing an operation using one-way function on the basis of personal data extracted by said personal data extraction means, to generate a unique code, wherein the unique code includes encoded privacy information data; and . . . replacing personal data of said processing-object data with said unique code, to generate primary conversion data, wherein said generated primary conversion data includes both the processing-object data and the unique code . . .” as recited in claims 1 and 9. Khello and Yoshida have not been, and indeed cannot be, relied upon to fulfill the above-identified deficiency of Shiraishi. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-5 and 11-13 are also distinguishable from Shiraishi in view of Khello/Yoshida.

Independent claim 6 also recites, *inter alia*, “. . . performing an operation using one-way function on the basis of personal data extracted by said personal data extraction means, to

generate a unique code, wherein the unique code includes encoded privacy information data; and . . . replacing personal data of said processing-object data with said unique code, to generate primary conversion data, wherein said generated primary conversion data includes both the processing-object data and the unique code . . .” As demonstrated above in great detail with respect to claims 1 and 9, Shiraishi fails to teach or suggest the above-identified claim feature. Kawagishi has not been, and indeed cannot be, relied upon to fulfill the above-identified deficiency of Shiraishi. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is also distinguishable from Shiraishi in view of Kawagishi. Claims 7-8 are at least distinguishable by virtue of their dependence on claim 6.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Fig. 6

